

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claim 1-12 and add the following claims 13-23.

13. (New) A composition comprising hemoglobin and a sulfur containing compound as a stabilizing agent in an amount sufficient for stabilizing the hemoglobin.

14. (New) The composition of claim 13 in the form of a solution.

15. (New) The composition according to claim 13 wherein said sulfur containing compound is a sulfur-containing compound having SH group.

16. (New) The composition according to claim 14 wherein said sulfur containing compound is a sulfur-containing compound having SH group.

17. (New) The composition according to claim 13 wherein said sulfur containing compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cysteine, methionine, cystine, thiobenzoic acid, thioglycol acid, 1-thioglycelin, thiodiglycol, mercaptoethanol, glutathione, thioglycerol, or a compound and the family thereof.

18. (New) The composition according to claim 14 wherein said sulfur containing compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cysteine, methionine, cystine, thiobenzoic acid, thioglycol acid, 1-thioglycelin, thiodiglycol, mercaptoethanol, glutathione, thioglycerol, or a compound and the family thereof.

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19. (New) The composition of according to claim 13, wherein said sulfur containing compound is cysteine or a compound in the family thereof. *\u2074*

20. (New) The composition of according to claim 14, wherein said sulfur containing compound is cysteine or a compound in the family thereof.

21. (New) The composition according to claim 13, wherein said sulfur is added in an amount of 0.1 to 0.0001 parts by weight per one part by weight of hemoglobin.

b 22. (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein said sulfur is added in an amount of 0.1 to 0.0001 parts by weight per one part by weight of hemoglobin.

23. (New) The composition according to claim 13, wherein said hemoglobin is glycated hemoglobin.

24. (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein said hemoglobin is glycated hemoglobin.